

grain were being harvested on every hand. The monotony that invariably attaches to a flat country is greatly relieved, if not wholly overcome in Holland by the rows of stately trees that have been planted on either side the dykes. The whole country, as far as I could see in passing hurriedly through, had a quality of picturesqueness peculiarly its own.

The habits of the people, I could not speak of particularly. They are not as alert as some that I have seen. Their general movement would not suit Broadway in New York. The wooden shoes which are commonly worn by the natives are like miniature scows. You might fancy without much idealistic extravagance, that they were designed to walk on the water and not on the land. They are not, however, an indolent people. The country rescued from the insatiable encroachments of the Ocean, below the level of which it lies, kept by artificial means in security from its great enemy and would-be master, and made beautiful and fruitful withal by dint of persistent industry, is a standing refutation of any such idea. They must be industrious, thrifty, and more than ordinarily intelligent to have accomplished such marvellous results.

Amsterdam is the commercial capital of Holland, and contains somewhere about 300,000 inhabitants. The whole city is built on wooden piles. It is about nine miles in circumference, intersected by numerous canals, dividing it into about ninety islands, which are connected by about 300 bridges. The Hague is a fashionable town near the coast, containing many broad and handsome streets, squares and palaces, and has much the appearance of any other fashionable and well-to-do city. Here are the residences of the king and nobles of the land.

There are not a few other towns that it would abundantly repay to visit, because of their historic associations and decidedly interesting features, especially for those whose taste for the antique has been at all developed. There is Dorchester with its fine Gothic church of the fourteenth century in a good state of preservation; Leyden, with its university, founded 300 years ago, Haarlem with its famous cathedral and organ; Utrecht with its tower containing a chime of forty-two bells, and its university with upwards of 300 students. We could have spent a much longer time in Holland with great pleasure and profit, were it within the range of possibility.